



NEWS RELEASE

National Bison Range



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United States Department of the Interior ~ Fish and Wildlife Service
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Road Work Causes Delays and Closures at National Bison Range

Summer is the time for friends and family to get together and go traveling through the beautiful country of western Montana. However it is also the time we hit delays and closures on roads and byways. The National Bison Range will be part of that inconvenience when staff works on Red Sleep Mountain Drive during the week of July 11th, causing delays. We are also planning closures of the road on Tuesday, July 19, 2011, if the weather permits road work on that day. Closures may occur at a different time if weather doesn't cooperate.

The snowy winter and very wet spring not only took its toll along the 19-mile Red Sleep Mountain Drive, but the weather has delayed work. So staff at the Bison Range will be grading this gravel road throughout the week of July 11 so watch for equipment on the road and expect some short delays between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Then on Tuesday, July 19th, Red Sleep will close from 6:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. while we apply dust control. It will reopen for evening use – remember to start by 7 p.m. so you can be off the Range by the time the front gate closes at 10 p.m. For more details, or for date changes, please call the Refuge at 406-644-2211.

During the closure on July 19th, the Winter Drive will be open to two-way traffic and all fees will be waived. The Winter Drive is a 10-mile round-trip gravel road that travels along Mission Creek out to Alexander Basin. It is a good place to see elk, pronghorn antelope and white tail deer. Bison viewing opportunities will be available along the West Loop.

While inconvenient, these delays and road closures will make Red Sleep Mountain Drive a better scenic roadway for the rest of the summer visitor season. We hope you will plan your trip to the Refuge with these road work dates in mind and enjoy the great wildlife viewing opportunities at the Bison Range along a smoother and less dusty road.

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